

the Middle East; we can achieve peace in South Asia. If we remain strong and principled and determined, we can have a peaceful world, and I believe it's going to happen.

And at home, if we unleash the true strength of the country, we'll have a better America. You see, we've got to understand that in America there are pockets of despair and hopelessness and loneliness and addiction. There are people who hurt. There are people that when you say "the American Dream," they say, "I have no idea what you're talking about." But that can change, because the true strength of America is the people of America. The true strength of America is the fact that our country is full of loving and caring and decent people who have heard a new call.

See, I think there is a new culture evolving—one from, if—it says, "If it feels good, do it, and, you've got a problem, blame somebody else," to a culture that says, "Each of us are responsible for decisions we make in life." That means if you're a mom or a dad, you're responsible for loving your children with all your heart. That's your most important responsibility. It means if you're living in a community in Texas, you're responsible for the quality of life, and you're responsible for loving your neighbor just like you'd like to be loved yourself. It says, if you're running a corporation in America, you're responsible to tell the truth to your shareholders and employees.

As a result of this change of attitude, as a result of that, people now understand that patriot is more than somebody who just puts his hand over his heart; a patriot is somebody who cares for somebody who hurts. America is changing. The enemy hit us, but out of the evil will come some incredible good—a more compassionate society.

My call to our fellow Americans is to understand the limitations of Government. Listen, Government can hand out money. We can do that, and we do a pretty good job of it sometimes. But what we can't do is put hope in people's hearts or a sense of purpose in people's lives. Government is not capable of saying, "I love you," to a child who hurts, or "What can I do," to somebody who is shut in. That will happen when our fellow citizens recognize we can change America for the

better, one heart, one soul, one conscience at a time.

No, the enemy hit us, and it's been tough on America. But out of the evil is going to come a peaceful world and a more compassionate society, because this is the greatest nation, full of the finest people, on the face of the Earth.

May God bless you all.

NOTE: The President spoke at 5:36 p.m. in the Imperial Ballroom at the Hyatt Regency. In his remarks, he referred to Sandy Cornyn, wife of candidate John Cornyn; Gov. Rick Perry of Texas; Ramzi bin al-Shibh, an Al Qaida operative suspected of helping to plan the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, who was captured in Karachi, Pakistan; and President Saddam Hussein of Iraq.

Letter to Congressional Leaders on the Use of United States Military Forces in the Cote d'Ivoire

September 26, 2002

Dear Mr. Speaker: (Dear Mr. President:)

On September 19, 2002, a mutiny and rebellion took place in the West African country of Cote d'Ivoire that threatened American citizens living there. Fighting erupted between the mutineers and government forces.

On September 24, 2002, a standby evacuation force of U.S. military personnel from the U.S. European Command was pre-positioned in Accra, Ghana, to assist with the evacuation of U.S. citizens from Cote d'Ivoire and with any other contingencies that might emerge. These forces initially included approximately 180 soldiers, fixed-wing aircraft, and equipment.

On September 25, 2002, U.S. forces moved into Cote d'Ivoire to assist French forces with the evacuation of American citizens and third country nationals from Bouake. This included children from the International Christian Academy as well as Peace Corps Volunteers, faculty, and missionaries. United States forces will also assist in the evacuation of other American citizens and third country nationals in Cote d'Ivoire, should their evacuation become necessary.

Although U.S. forces are equipped for combat, this movement was undertaken solely for the purpose of protecting American

citizens and property. United States forces will redeploy as soon as it is determined that this mission is completed.

I have taken this action pursuant to my constitutional authority to conduct U.S. foreign relations and as Commander in Chief and Chief Executive. I am providing this report as part of my efforts to keep the Congress informed, consistent with the War Powers Resolution.

I appreciate the support of the Congress in this action in Cote d'Ivoire.

Sincerely,

George W. Bush

NOTE: Identical letters were sent to J. Dennis Hastert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, and Robert C. Byrd, President pro tempore of the Senate. This letter was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on September 27.

Digest of Other White House Announcements

The following list includes the President's public schedule and other items of general interest announced by the Office of the Press Secretary and not included elsewhere in this issue.

September 22

In the afternoon, the President returned from Camp David, MD, to Washington, DC. Later, he hosted a tee-ball game on the South Lawn of the White House.

September 23

In the morning, the President traveled to Trenton, NJ.

In the afternoon, the President returned to Washington, DC. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with President Askar Akayev of Kyrgyzstan.

The President announced his intention to appoint Robin Jennison as U.S. Representative and Chairman of the Arkansas River Compact Administration (Colorado and Kansas).

The President announced his intention to appoint George Butvilas and Richard

Ochsner as members of the National Veteran Business Development Corporation.

September 24

In the morning, the President had CIA and FBI briefings. Later, in an Oval Office ceremony, he signed H.R. 3917, the Flight 93 National Memorial Act.

In the afternoon, in the Roosevelt Room, the President participated in a meeting with National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice and a group of women government officials from Afghanistan who were in Washington, DC, to attend a U.S.-Afghan Women's Council training program.

The President announced his intention to appoint Zoraida Fonalledas as a member of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation.

September 25

In the morning, the President had a telephone conversation with President Kim Dae-jung of South Korea to discuss security issues between North and South Korea and the situation in Iraq. Later, he had intelligence and FBI briefings and then met with the National Security Council.

Also in the morning, the President met with Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy G. Thompson and Mark B. McClellan, nominee to be Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration.

In the afternoon, the President met with Members of Congress to discuss energy legislation. Later, in the Oval Office, he met with members of the Boys and Girls Club of America Youth of the Year finalists.

Later in the afternoon, in an Oval Office ceremony, the President received diplomatic credentials from Ambassadors Karim Tawfiq Kawar of Jordan, Franciskus van Daele of Belgium, Alpha Oumar Rafiou Barry of Guinea, Essa Bokarr Sey of Gambia, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi of Pakistan, Hugo Guiliani Cury of the Dominican Republic, Noel Fahey of Ireland, and Andras Simonyi of Hungary.

The President announced his intention to nominate Mark B. McClellan to be Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration.